

# Some Researchers Insist Oswald Could Not Have Done It Alone

By Lee Winfrey

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The Warren Report is like an old used car: It rattles a lot and the tires are thin, but it's still running.

Ten years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy the report remains the authoritative account of his death. A decade of criticism has failed to overturn it.

Across the nation, from Fire Island to Wounded Knee, from Haverford, Pa., to Belleville, Mich., some critics remain convinced that the report is a tent of lies, concealing rather than revealing the truth. Sylvia Meagher, Josiah Thompson, Mark Lane, Dr. Cyril Wecht, Dr. E. Forrest Chapman, Bob Smith, Bud Fensterwald and Penn Jones Jr. — these are only a few of the researchers who do not believe that Lee Harvey Oswald "acted alone," as the report asserts, on Nov. 22, 1963, when Kennedy died in Dallas.

Yet a tenth-anniversary review of the Warren Report, including a reassessment of the evidence and interviews with the critics, leaves standing the conclusion that, although some questions remain and some of the report's findings are debatable, no acceptable alternative has been found that explains the assassination better than the report.

**THE REPORT IS** a vast tableau: 888 pages with 26 volumes of supporting testimony behind it, including interviews with 552 witnesses. It is often microscopically detailed, at one point even offering an analysis of Oswald's pubic hair.

There are holes in it, questions unanswered and wonders that remain. Some of them:

● Who was the Umbrella Man? Why has he never been identified? Was he a co-conspirator?

● Who was the unknown man that the CIA photographed in Mexico City before the assassination and misidentified as Oswald? Was he another plotter?

● Where is the brain of John F. Kennedy? It was not buried with him, but government agencies will not say where it is now. Several physicians who doubt the report believe the brain might show the marks of other bullets besides Oswald's.

● How could one bullet pass through the bodies of two men (Kennedy and John B. Connally, who was then the governor of Texas) and emerge looking virtually like new? Could this bullet be a piece of false evidence that was planted?

● Why should anyone believe a report that apparently was doubted even by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the man who ordered it prepared?

## Umbrella Man

Roughly 400 persons were in or around Dealey Plaza, a three-acre park in downtown Dallas, when Kennedy was slain there at 12:30 p.m. on a Friday. The names of more than 250 are known. Of those unknown, the Umbrella Man is the most puzzling.

The dark blue Lincoln limousine carrying Kennedy was fired on as it approached a sign saying "Stemmons Freeway — Keep Right." Standing next to the sign was a man holding an open umbrella.

The sun was shining and the sky was cloudless. Rain had stopped falling almost three hours before. In all the hundreds of photographs taken along the route of Kennedy's motorcade through Dallas, the Umbrella Man is the only person seen with an open umbrella.

In photos taken immediately after the shooting, his umbrella is closed. Several critics of the Warren Report suspect that the opening of his umbrella by the Umbrella Man may have been a signal for the gunfire to commence.

The Umbrella Man was middle-aged, in his late 30s or early 40s, dressed conservatively in a dark suit. He walked away after the assassination and he has never been identified, nor questioned about his puzzling behavior.

## The CIA Photos

Oswald, who travelled widely, made his last foreign trip less than two months before the assassination. He was in Mexico City from Sept. 27 until Oct. 2, 1963, vainly applying for a visa to travel to Cuba and Russia.

Four days before the assassination, the CIA received a report on Oswald's visit to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. The report included photos, taken by a CIA surveillance camera across the street from

the Cuban Embassy on Sept. 27, of a man whom several CIA identified as Oswald.

It obviously is not Oswald. It is an older, heavier man. Queried after the assassination, the CIA said a confidential source inside the embassy had identified the man as Oswald.

The CIA has never learned, or at least never revealed, the man's real identity, nor disclosed exactly how he was misidentified. Critics wonder if he was a secret associate of Oswald, and whether they might have met and plotted while they were both in Mexico City at the same time.

## Missing Brain

No physician has seen Kennedy's brain since shortly after the autopsy that was performed on the President the day he died. Two sources who know the whereabouts of all the other assassination evidence do not know the whereabouts of the brain.

The National Archives holds virtually all the assassination evidence, including such grim artifacts as Oswald's rifle and the three bullet fragments involved in the case.

Asked about the brain, archivist Marion Johnson said, "We don't have it and I don't know where it is." Burke Marshall, former assistant U.S. attorney general who is now on the faculty of Yale Law School, represents the Kennedy family in matters pertaining to the assassination. Asked about the whereabouts of the brain, Marshall said, "I can't answer that question. I have never asked that question of the family and I do not know."

The Warren Report concludes that both bullets that hit Kennedy came from behind him, from the Texas School Book Depository where Oswald worked. Some critics think that the brain, if it were made available for examination, might show evidence of a shot from the front, from the spot in Dealey Plaza commonly called "the grassy knoll."

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